AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A filter body formed by bonding porous ceramic honeycomb filter units by means of a joint (17), said filter units comprising passages which are alternately blocked at the upstream face to form outlet passages or at the downstream face to form inlet passages,

wherein ~~said filter body has~~ an exterior surface (16) of a first of said units (11) face to face with a second of said units and in contact with said joint (17) includes at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) of a boss and/or recess type.

11. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 10, wherein said at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) extends along a longitudinal axis (D-D) of said first unit (11) over a whole length of said first unit (11).

12. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 10, wherein said at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) is a

recess (30b) carried by an exterior face (32b) of a gas outlet passage (14b) at a periphery of said first unit (11).

13. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 10, wherein said at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) is a boss (30a) carried by an exterior face (32a) of a gas inlet passage (14a) at a periphery of said first unit (11).

14. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 12, wherein a width (l) of said at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) measured in a transverse plane (P) of said first unit (11) is substantially equal to a width of said exterior face of said passage.

15. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 10, wherein said exterior surface (16) includes a plurality of said irregularities (30a, 30b) regularly spaced from each other.

16. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 10, wherein at least one portion of said exterior surface (16) of said first unit (11) has a sinusoidal shape in cross section.

17. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 10, wherein said at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) is conformed so that it can be accommodated in an irregularity (30a, 30b) of complementary shape of said second unit.

18. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 10, wherein said at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) is a recess (30b') formed in a thickness of an exterior wall (34b') of a passage (14b') at a periphery of said first unit (11).

19. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 11, wherein said at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) is a recess (30b) carried by an exterior face (32b) of a gas outlet passage (14b) at a periphery of said first unit (11).

20. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 11, wherein said at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) is a boss (30a) carried by an exterior face (32a) of a gas inlet passage (14a) at a periphery of said first unit (11).

21. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 13, wherein a width (l) of said at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) measured in a transverse plane (P) of said first unit (11) is substantially equal to a width of said exterior face of said passage .

22. (previously presented) A filter body formed by bonding filter units by means of a joint (17), an exterior surface (16) of a first of said filter units (11) face to face with a second of said filter units and in contact with said joint (17) including at least one recess (30b) carried by an exterior face (32b) of a gas outlet passage 14(b) at a periphery of said first unit (11).

23. (previously presented) A filter body formed by bonding filter units by means of a joint (17), an exterior surface (16) of a first of said filter units (11) face to face with a second of said filter units and in contact with said joint (17) including at least a boss (30a) carried by an exterior face (32a) of a gas inlet passage (14a) at a periphery of said first unit (11).

24. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 23, wherein a width (l) of an irregularity (30a, 30b) measured in a transverse plane (P) of said first unit (11) is substantially equal to a width of said exterior face of said passage .

25. (previously presented) A filter body formed by bonding filter units by means of a joint (17), an exterior

surface (16) of a first of said filter units (11) face to face with a second of said filter units and in contact with said joint (17) including at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) of a boss and/or recess type, wherein at least one portion of said exterior surface (16) of said first unit (11) has a sinusoidal shape in cross section.

26. (previously presented) A filter body formed by bonding filter units by means of a joint (17), an exterior surface (16) of a first of said filter units (11) face to face with a second of said filter units and in contact with said joint (17) including at least one recess (30b') formed in a thickness of an exterior wall (34b') of a passage (14b') at a periphery of said first filter unit (11).

27. (previously presented) A filter body formed by bonding filter units by means of a joint (17), an exterior surface (16) of a first of said filter units (11) face to face with a second of said filter units and in contact with said joint (17) including at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) of a boss and/or recess type, said irregularity (30a, 30b) extending along a longitudinal axis (D-D) of said first filter unit (11) over a whole length of said first filter unit (11), wherein said irregularity (30a, 30b) is a recess (30b) carried by an exterior

face (32b) of a gas outlet passage (14b) at a periphery of said first unit (11).

28. (previously presented) The filter body according to claim 27, wherein a width of said irregularity (30a, 30b) measured in a transverse plane (P) of said first unit (11) is substantially equal to the width of said exterior face of said passage .